

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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S E C R E T STATE 202892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS, US, KN, CH, PEPR, UR, BGEN, EGEN, ETRD

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.

1. ARMS TRANSFER CEILING (SECRET)

INITIAL MEETINGS AIMED AT REACHING A TENTATIVE
COUNTRY ALLOCATION OF THE FY 79 ARMS TRANSFER CEILING HAVE
CONCENTRATED ON FIVE COUNTRIES: ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA,
IRAN, TAIWAN AND KOREA. THE COMPETITION FOR SCARCE
CEILING RESOURCES WILL BE MUCH MORE INTENSE THIS YEAR
THAN LAST, AND THE ROKG'S PRIORITY BUYING LIST FOR FY 79
WILL HAVE TO BE TRIMMED SOMEWHAT. EXAMINATION OF THE
KOREAN PROGRAM HAS FOCUSED ON ROKG INTEREST IN THREE
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EXPENSIVE AIRCRAFT - AX, F5E AND F-16 - IN A SINGLE YEAR.
THE F-16 IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME SINCE PM INSISTS
THAT THE FULL VALUE OF THE PROPOSED BUY - \$1.2 BILLION -
MUST BE CHARGED AGAINST THE FY 79 CEILING, AND IT IS
DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT COULD BE ACCOMMO-
DATED THIS YEAR. WE ARE ARGUING THAT ONLY THE LOA FOR
LONG LEAD TIME ITEMS, WORTH ABOUT \$200 MILLION, NEED BE

CHARGED AGAINST THIS YEAR'S CEILING, BUT WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS VIEW WILL PREVAIL. (DB)

2. NK TILT TOWARD THE PRC (CONFIDENTIAL)

LAST WEEK PYONGYANG DOMESTIC RADIO CARRIED WITHOUT COMMENT THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY THE PRC MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHICH ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION BY NAME FOR "SOCIAL IMPERIALISM." THIS REPRESENTS THE FIRST TIME IN SOME TIME THAT PYONGYANG HAS GONE THIS FAR TOWARD CRITICIZING THE SOVIETS (ALBEIT INDIRECTLY), AND IT HAS TOUCHED OFF SPECULATION AMONG NORTH KOREA WATCHERS THAT PYONGYANG IS DEFINITELY LEANING TOWARD PEKING. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE TILT WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO SO FAR AS TO CAUSE AN OPEN BREAK, BUT KIM IL-SONG'S LONG RUMORED TRIP TO MOSCOW THIS FALL NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY. (DBM)

3. COMMERCE MINISTERS' MEETING (L.O.U.)

COMMERCE HAS TENTATIVELY BLOCKED OUT TIME ON SECRETARY KREPS' SCHEDULE FOR EARLY FEBRUARY FOR THE NINTH US-KOREA COMMERCE MINISTERS MEETING IN WASHINGTON, AND HAS SO INFORMED THE KOREAN EMBASSY. COMMERCE IS PREPARING A MESSAGE WITH DETAILS. (DB)

4. KOREA AND THE MTN (L.O.U.)

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WE ARE GETTING CONFLICTING SIGNALS ABOUT KOREA'S PERFORMANCE IN THE MTN FROM THE USMISSION IN GENEVA AND FROM STR IN WASHINGTON. WHILE THE FORMER REPORTS ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KOREAN DELEGATION WHICH SEEM TO BE MOVING FORWARD, THE LATTER HAS EXPRESSED IMPATIENCE WITH KOREAN INACTION ON THE PROCUREMENT CODE AND FAILURE TO TABLE A TARIFF REDUCTION OFFER LIST AS YET. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY SEOUL TO IMPRESS UPON THE ROKG THE IMPORTANCE AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATION OF FOLLOWING UP GOOD INTENTIONS WITH CONCRETE ACTION. IN ADDITION, STR'S STEVE LANDE WILL BE IN SEOUL IN LATE AUGUST AND WILL REVIEW MTN DEVELOPMENTS WITH ROK OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED. (DB)

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NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED PORT MORESBY.

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